

March 30, 1976

MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. President, distinguished members of the Legislature. I'm very delighted to have this opportunity to visit with you on short notice, to make a few remarks. I'm here, as several of you know, to talk to the Chamber of Commerce here in Lincoln. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation as Secretary of the Army and to note the fine relationship we have between the active Army and the Reserve components thereof, and particularly the Nebraska National Guard which you all have provided for so well and so steadfastly over the years.

As you know, we have a transitional year this year in defense spending on a national level. I think we're all concerned with national defense, with national security and certainly the strength of all of our institutions, particularly in state government, are essential to the security that we have known over the years and will know in the future. The example that you all have set with the Nebraska National Guard, not only in terms of the fine constitution of that Guard and number of people, the interest in it in the population here in Nebraska, but in the many innovative things that you've done, not the least of which is the provision of incentives, education incentives for Guard and now Reserve membership which I think speaks particularly well for the regard of you and those you represent for the national security. The many fine recruits we have, not only in the all volunteer force, but we have over 16,000 Nebraskans in the active Army today, a figure that I think speaks very well for your great state.

I'm very pleased to be here. We appreciate the contributions that the Guard makes. We have, as part of our active Army planning to meet the world situation as we find it in strengthening the active Army, in strengthening our forces, we are seeking to do so in large measure by strengthening the Reserve forces of the United States. Hopefully, given an increased defense budget which the President has advocated & has submitted to the U.S. Congress, we will be able to not only better equip our active Army but it is my hope that we will continue to make a significant increase in the equipment, and in the readiness and in the training that we are able to provide from the federal level for the National Guard and for the Reserves. Working together I think we can make very meaningful progress this next year and in the years to come in assuring the national security of this great nation of ours.

Thank you very much for this opportunity, Mr. President. Thank you again for your continued support of national defense.

PRESIDENT: Thank you Secretary Hoffman. We're still on Final Reading. LB 579.

CLERK: I have a motion on the desk, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: I move to return LB 579 to Select File to strike the enacting clause. Signed, Senator Koch.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.